



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,395	10/20/2003	Dean H. Lodwig	988-29-004	3755
826	7590	07/05/2005		EXAMINER
ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			FUNK, STEPHEN R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/690,395	LODWIG ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen R. Funk	2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 46-53 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 46-53 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/14, 6/6/705.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 46 - 48, 50, 52, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (JP 2002-120446). Takahashi teaches a method of cleaning substrates comprising moving to a print station (3, 7) a succession of substrates (8), moving a consumable transfer medium (13) through the print station, assisting cleaning of the substrates with a cleaning structure (17) whose useful life is related to the useful life of the consumable transfer medium (see paragraph 11), unalterably linking the replacement of the consumable transfer medium with the replacement of the cleaning structure (see paragraphs 11, 23, 31, 35, 36).

With respect to claim 47 the consumable transfer medium (13) of Takahashi is a transfer ribbon.

With respect to claims 48, 50, and 52 the cleaning structure (17) of Takahashi is a sticky roller directly engaging the substrates (8). See again paragraphs 11, 23, 31, 35, and 36 of Takahashi, for example.

With respect to claim 53 note the cartridge (16) of Takahashi.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 49 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Meier et al. ('229). Takahashi does not teach the cleaning structure being a belt or web or the cleaning structure engaging a primary cleaning member. Meier et al. teach a sticky belt (64) engaging a primary cleaning member (30). See paragraphs 19, 22, 25, and 26 of Meier et al., for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the method of Takahashi with the step of engaging a sticky belt to a primary cleaning member in view of Meier et al. so as to increase the sticky surface area for retaining debris while still exposing a clean primary cleaning member to the substrates.

Applicant's arguments filed June 6, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that the cleaning structure of Takahashi is not "unalterably linked" to the cartridge is contradicted by the language of Takahashi. In paragraph [0011] Takahashi it is disclosed that the ribbon cassette is "unified" or "integrated" with the cleaning rollers so that the ribbon and cleaning structure have a similar longevity. In paragraphs [0031] and [0035] it is disclosed that when the ribbon cassette is exchanged or replaced so to are the cleaning rollers. While Takahashi may not explicitly use the language "unalterably linked", it is apparent that the ribbon cassette and cleaning rollers are physically linked so that they can only be replaced at the same time.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen R. Funk whose telephone number is (571) 272-2164.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Hirshfeld, can be reached at (571) 272-2168.

The fax phone number for ALL official papers is (703) 872-9306. Upon consulting with the examiner *unofficial* papers only may be faxed directly to the examiner at (571) 273-2164.

SRF
June 29, 2005


STEPHEN R. FUNK
PRIMARY EXAMINER